

a program that contains a control for controllable driving of said apparatus, said program comprising program steps coordinated with individual process steps, a plurality of such program steps being combined to form groups of operations, in which a step sequence is predetermined and control parameters of at least one step are selectable or adjustable, said groups of operations being called up to trigger a plurality of program steps that are preprogrammed in such a manner as to result in control of drives in step sequence.

129. The apparatus as claimed in claim 126, wherein at least one of an individual program, process steps and control parameters linked therewith in set to at least one of none and desired other parameters via an input unit.

130. The apparatus as claimed in claim 126, wherein a plurality of program groups are combined to form overlapping program groups, and wherein individual program groups are shown as an overview and subsequently in detail on a display, said display permitting interactive correction of given values in individual program steps.

#### Remarks

##### Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(a)

Claims 39-42 and 44-46 stand rejected as being anticipated by the patent to Tomoji.

##### Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103 (a)

Claims 47-49 stand rejected as unpatentable over Tomoji in view of Wallermann et al.

Claims 75-78 and 81 stand rejected as unpatentable over Tomoji in view of

Stepan.

Claim 84 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Tomoji in view of Baba et al.

Claims 39 and 85 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Tomoji in view of

Loustau.

Claim 87 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Tomoji in view of Hoffa.

We respectfully believe Tomoji is inappropriate as prior art.

The pending application has priority from (1) Swiss-application 3235/95 of November 6, 1995, (2) Swiss-application 2329/96 of September 23, 1996, (3) PCT-application PCT/EP96/04790 of November 4, 1996 and (4) PCT-application PCT/EP97/05216 of September 23, 1997.

All of these priorities were properly requested. The second PCT-application was the basis for the CIP-application in the US, which is now the present pending US-application. The priority documents were filed properly with the International Bureau and for that reason should be available to the Examiner through the PTO.

For that reason, Tomoji published on February 14, 1997 could be only relevant if the respective claims of the present application do not have priority protection from the priorities 1-3, cited above.

The claims of elected Group I and Groups II-VII have full protection under Priorities 1-3, which can be seen beyond any doubt, from the drawings of those priority applications alone.

Therefore, as to 35 USC 102(a), Tomoji is not a publication printed before Applicant's invention thereof.

Old head claim 39 now depends on new head claim 88. Claim 88 relates to a continuous cable stripping apparatus. In a continuous cable stripping apparatus, the cable is fed continuously through the cable stripping apparatus, as distinguished from one in which an operator inserts a cable end into the apparatus and then pulls it out again.

A continuous cable stripping apparatus is discussed on page 1, lines 1-13 and page 6, line 37 to page 7, line 2:

“This applies to continuous cable processing as well as to insulation stripping apparatuses where an operator or manipulator inserts a cable end into the apparatus and then pulls it out again”.

New head claims 126 and 127 recite a “continuous cable processing apparatus” having rollers or continuous belts and a computer control member.

New head claim 128 recites a continuous cable processing apparatus comprising a program with a plurality of program steps.

Referring to the Office Action of April 10, 2000, Group II, claims 50-51 and 86, has been changed from “a cable processing apparatus” to “a continuous cable insulation stripping apparatus,” as covered by Group I.

Group III, claim 52, and Group IV, claims 53-56, have been similarly changed, and Group V, claims 57-58, and Group VI, claims 59-62, now recite “a continuous cable processing apparatus”.

Group VII, claims 63-65 and Group VII, claims 66-74 and 83, now recite “a continuous cable insulation stripping apparatus”.

These changes integrate the claims into a single group that has the same or corresponding special technical features under PCT Rule 13.2.



Drawings

Locher et al.  
09/068,278  
(R) S11-PC1/US

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Applicant intends to submit a new drawing showing the features of claim 43 in response to item 3 of the Office Action.

Wherefore, further consideration and allowance of claims 39-130 are respectfully requested.

An additional two months is petitioned for in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action.

A check in the amount of \$889 is enclosed for a two-month Small Entity extension fee of \$190, \$312 for 8 independent claims over 3 and \$387 for an additional 43 claims over 20.

Please charge any additional fees due by virtue of this amendment or this application or credit any refunds to Deposit Account 11-0665

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